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Millions in U.K. Urged to Get Vaccinations During Surge in Measles Cases + More

The Defender's Big Pharma Watch delivers the latest headlines related to pharmaceutical companies and their products, including vaccines, drugs, and medical devices and treatments. The views expressed in the below excerpts from other news sources do not necessarily reflect the views of The Defender. Our goal is to provide readers with breaking news that affects human health and the environment.

By The Defender Staff

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Millions in the U.K. Are Being Urged to Get Vaccinations During a Surge in Measles Cases

Associated Press reported:

> U.K. health officials on Monday urged millions of parents to book their children for missed measles, mumps and rubella shots during a sharp increase in the number of measles cases and the lowest vaccination rates in a decade.
>
> The National Health Service is launching a publicity campaign after figures showed there were about 250 confirmed measles cases in parts of England last year. Most cases were in children under 10 years old.
>
> The combined measles, mumps and rubella, or MMR, vaccine is offered in the U.K. in two doses to all children, first at 12 months and then again at 3 years. Vaccination rates have dropped to about 85% nationally, and far lower in parts of London, according to U.K. Health Security Agency chief executive Jenny Harries.
>
> More recently, declines in vaccination uptake were exacerbated partly by the pandemic and anti-vaccine sentiment, said Helen Bedford, a professor of children's health at University College London.

Federal Lawmakers Take First Steps Toward Oversight of $50 Billion in Opioid Settlements

KFF Health News reported:

> Some members of Congress are demanding federal oversight of billions of dollars in opioid settlements, which state and local governments began spending over the past two years — with some using it to plug budget holes rather than fight the addiction crisis.
>
> This month, Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) and Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-Iowa) introduced legislation that would write into law approved uses for the funds so they reach people most affected by the crisis.
>
> With more than 100,000 Americans dying annually of overdoses in recent years, "any effort we can make to try to turn the needle toward treatment, prevention, education, and enforcement is critical," Kaptur said in an interview. "This bill aims to ensure that these funds are used for those purposes and not as a piggy bank for other projects."
>
> The opioid cash comes from more than a dozen drugmakers, pharmaceutical distributors, and retail pharmacies that have agreed to pay more than $50 billion over 18 years in legal settlements intended to resolve their roles in the opioid addiction crisis. The companies — including household names like CVS and Johnson & Johnson, as well as lesser-known companies like AmerisourceBergen and Cardinal Health — were accused of downplaying the risks of prescription opioids and fueling the first wave of the crisis.

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Drugmakers Hiking Prices for More Than 700 Medications, Including Ozempic and Mounjaro

CBS News reported:

> Pharmaceutical companies are hiking prices for more than 700 medications, including popular weight-loss drugs Ozempic and Mounjaro, industry research shows.
>
> The average price increase at year start was about 4.5%, the analysis from 46 Brooklyn found. That represents a slightly slower pace compared with the five prior years when drug prices rose about 5% each year on average, the data shows.
>
> Among the noteworthy increases are Ozempic and Mounjaro, two drugs that belong to a class of medications called GLP-1 agonists. While these drugs are designed to help diabetics regulate their blood sugar, they've also been found to be effective weight-loss drugs, prompting non-diabetics to seek out the drugs in order to slim down. As a result, these drugs have been in greater demand, leading to shortages.
>
> The price of Ozempic, which is manufactured by Novo Nordisk, rose 3.5% to $984.29 for a month's supply, while Eli Lilly's Mounjaro rose 4.5% to about $1,000 for a month's worth of the medication, the 46 Brooklyn data shows.

Ozempic and Wegovy Overdose Calls Have Spiked, Experts Say — Here's What to Know About Dangerous Doses

Fox News reported:

> As the popularity of semaglutide weight-loss medications continues to grow, so does the rate of potentially dangerous overdoses, experts are warning.
>
> Reported overdoses of semaglutide products such as Ozempic and Wegovy more than doubled between 2022 and 2023, according to America's Poison Centers in Virginia.
>
> "U.S. Poison Centers have documented 3,316 exposures to products containing semaglutide through Dec. 31, 2023, more than two times the number of cases reported in 2022," Dr. Kait Brown, clinical managing director of America's Poison Centers, told Fox News Digital via email.
>
> Dr. Maryann Amirshahi, co-medical director of the National Capital Poison Center in Washington, DC, confirmed that there has been a large overall increase in semaglutide overdoses reported to poison centers nationally.

Cancer Vaccine With Minimal Side Effects Nearing Phase 3 Clinical Trials

ABC News reported:

> Dr. Thomas Wagner, founder of the biotech company Orbis Health Solutions and cancer researcher, has made it his life's mission to find a way to treat cancer without the dreaded side effects that, for some, can become worse than the cancer itself or may even lead to an earlier death.
>
> After seeing cancer patients suffer from debilitating side effects of their treatment, Wagner began his mission to develop a cancer treatment that harnessed the power of a person's immune system instead of eliminating it. This treatment was developed as a vaccine that has now been studied for decades, and each shot is completely personalized to each patient.
>
> Wagner's TLPO cancer vaccine has been tested in hundreds of patients with advanced forms of melanoma in Phase 2 clinical trials.
>
> Dr. Vernon Sondak, a cutaneous oncologist at Moffit Cancer Center who was not involved in the clinical trial but has worked with tumor lysate vaccines throughout his career, told ABC News that these results are promising, but points out that the Phase 2 clinical trials aren't conclusive. A larger Phase 3 clinical trial will have to ultimately validate if this cancer vaccine will truly be a game-changer in the field.

Exclusive: U.S. FDA Finds New Manufacturing Lapses at Eli Lilly Plant

Reuters reported:

> U.S. inspectors recently uncovered new manufacturing problems at an Eli Lilly (LLY.N) plant that has been under scrutiny by federal investigators, according to government records obtained by Reuters.
>
> The U.S. Food and Drug Administration inspection in July at Lilly's Branchburg, New Jersey, plant detected eight separate deficiencies. They included problems in tracking manufacturing processes and quality controls, as well as lapses in the calibration of equipment and failure to properly maintain facilities and equipment, the inspection report shows.
>
> The inspection report, which Reuters obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request, was partially redacted to remove the names of any products affected. Lilly said in a statement to Reuters that the company had asked the FDA to allow for "additional flexibility" to manufacture migraine treatment Emgality on a different production line if needed in the future.
>
> Lilly has become the world's most valuable healthcare company by market capitalization. Its shares rose 59% last year on surging demand for Mounjaro, a diabetes drug that is also a powerful obesity treatment. The drug was approved for weight loss under the brand name

Zepbound in the U.S. late last year. Lilly said in a statement that tirzepatide, the active ingredient in Mounjaro and Zepbound, was not manufactured at the Branchburg plant.

Yet the Indianapolis-based drugmaker has been cited multiple times for manufacturing problems at its U.S. plants over the last few years, Reuters has reported. Three regulatory experts who reviewed the new inspection report described the most recent lapses as serious.

Sanders Plans to Subpoena Merck, J&J CEOs on Drug Pricing

The Hill reported:

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), chair of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP), announced Thursday he will be holding a vote to issue subpoenas to the CEOs of Johnson & Johnson and Merck for testimonies on drug pricing after they refused requests to appear before the Senate panel.

The subpoenas for Johnson & Johnson CEO Joaquin Duato and Merck CEO Robert Davis would have them "provide testimony about why their companies charge substantially higher prices for medicine in the U.S. compared to other countries," according to the announcement.

FDA Scolds Novartis Over a Misleading TV Ad for a Breast Cancer Treatment

STAT News reported:

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration scolded Novartis for making false and misleading statements about a best-selling breast cancer treatment in a television ad in 2022.

In a Nov. 18 letter, the agency admonished the company for touting the benefits of its Kisqali medicine by referencing data that did not support the messages in the ad. In particular, the FDA cited an analysis of patient-reported outcomes data that had limitations and failed to demonstrate Kisqali "helps preserve quality of life" or supports patients "living well." The FDA also objected to formatting.

"This violation is particularly concerning because the overstated representations about Kisqali's efficacy could lead patients with advanced or metastatic breast cancer… to believe that Kisqali has been shown to be more effective in treating their condition and symptoms — with respect to overall survival and quality of life — than was actually demonstrated," the FDA wrote to Novartis about its television ad.

Cameroon Starts World's First Malaria Vaccine Program for Children

Associated Press reported:

Cameroon will be the first country to routinely give children a new malaria vaccine as the shots are rolled out in Africa. The Central African nation hopes to vaccinate about 250,000 children this year and next year. Gavi said it is working with 20 other African countries to help them get the vaccine and that those countries will hopefully immunize more than 6 million children through 2025.

Cameroon will use the first of two recently approved malaria vaccines, known as Mosquirix. The World Health Organization endorsed the vaccine two years ago, acknowledging that even though it is imperfect, its use would still dramatically reduce severe infections and hospitalizations.

The GlaxoSmithKline-produced shot is only about 30% effective, requires four doses and protection begins to fade after several months. The vaccine was tested in Africa and used in pilot programs in three countries.

Neither of the malaria vaccines stops transmission, so other tools like bed nets and insecticidal spraying will still be critical. The malaria parasite mostly spreads to people via infected mosquitoes and can cause symptoms including fever, headaches and chills.

FDA Slaps Boxed Warning on Amgen's Osteoporosis Drug Prolia

Fierce Pharma reported:

The use of Amgen's osteoporosis drug Prolia by those with advanced chronic kidney disease (CKD) can increase the risk of calcium loss in the blood, according to the FDA.

The U.S. regulator has added a new boxed warning for the blockbuster treatment, which has been on the market for 14 years and loses patent protection next year.

Use of Prolia, which is injected every six months, can increase the risk of "severe" hypocalcemia, which is an abnormally low level of calcium in the blood. It's a dangerous but treatable condition that can cause neurologic or psychological issues that can be fatal.

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1 • Share Best Newest Oldest

Clare Goldsberry
12 days ago

"Surge" in measles cases might be due to the fact that the Covid-19 "vaccine" attacks the immune system -- the helper T-cells and B-cells specifically. The more "vaccines" people get (not just the mRNA -- although that's the most dangerous) including all of the nearly 27 that are given from infancy through teenaged years, the more people will become ill with the very diseases they say they are trying to stop. We can't keep doing this to people. I've had 2 vaccines: 1 smallpox at age 5 before I started first grade, and 1 polio at age 10. I've been healthy as a horse my whole life. Never had any "flu" vaccine, and never had the flu. Take your vitamins and keep your immune system strong!

7 0 Reply • Share ›

Henry Longstop ↗ Clare Goldsberry
12 days ago edited

My medical history matches yours exactly, with the same positive outcome. We can't be the only ones. However one concern is whether the polio vaccine shot I received was the discredited (and later banned) 'Cutter Laboratories' product, which was cultivated on monkey kidneys carrying the infamous SV40 virus implicated in later life adult cancers. Another suspicion, rather than a concern, was whether the Smallpox inoculation is responsible for a lifelong low level systemic inflammation only mitigated by a continuous and inconvenient mucosal response.
As to the measles outbreak I have two questions. Firstly, how many of the infections are in the vaccinated, and secondly is the measles virus being identified the vaccine induced strain which is worryingly appearing in patients.Dr Andrew Wakefield has some interesting commentary on the new vaccine induced disease.

2 0 Reply • Share ›

BH387
12 days ago edited

250 measles cases among millions of people is a "surge"? And I would hazard a guess no deaths or disabilities, as compared to how many caused by the MMR shots?

5 0 Reply • Share ›

Dianne ↗ BH387
12 days ago

It's what they do. Fear mongering. Of course it's an opportunity to sell more injections, excuse me "vaccines". B.S. all the way around.

4 0 Reply • Share ›

RighteousRants
12 days ago

I was born before there was a shot for measles and I came down with the measles as a young kid, so did many children in my area and NO ONE DIED from the measles and afterwards you have immunity ! They are putting mRNA in all the shots for children and heavy metals. STOP THE MADNESS !

3 0 Reply • Share ›

Alison
12 days ago

I personally wouldn't mind a measles epidemic. I had it as a kid and acquired natural immunity. My kids need that benefit too. They are not getting the needle, but I do want them to have had their childhood diseases in childhood. So, I personally, say: let 'em come. It's time for some natural immunity.

3 0 Reply • Share ›

BarbaraCharis
12 days ago

The medical answer to cancer: A cancer vaccine...how about getting rid of a tumor by not feeding it? In 1976, two doctors told me that I would be given no guarantees, if I didn't have a rapidly growing lemon-sized growth removed immediately. I tried a different method...prayer. A couple days later, I came across a book that provided an answer. Two and a half months later, I went back to show the second doctor that the tumor was gone. He wasn't one bit interested in what I had done. He just said it was gone due to "spontaneous remission." What did I do? I followed advice coming from a Doctor of Science, who lived a long and healthy life Dr, N.W. Walker . I ate raw fruit and vegetables, which provided no fat, no protein and low carbs. I learned NOTHING GROWS, without fuel; the tumor dissolved, because It wasn't fed.

3 0 Reply • Share ›

Cathy Logan
12 days ago

Survived all the childhood illnesses... stuff your vaccines!

2 0 Reply • Share ›

Daniel Arnaud
12 days ago

There is hope yet. Children getting measles will have immunity for life as well as fewer other health challenges.

2 0 Reply • Share ›

Tom Zee
5 days ago edited

Hey up. Here we go again. Big pharma wants to take more of your money, whilst they inject your children with a potion of a deadly ingredients known to kill them slowly. C'mon people why are we listening to these (so called) medical people. Only to be told that it's good medicine. In the meantime, those who made these death shots are laughing all the way to the bank protection? My arse. Wake up people you're putting yours and your children's lives at risk.
You've got to admit it though, that this type of murder is very, clever and very devious. Next time it'll be a return of another, so called virus, and another. Whilst the big pharma companies become very wealthy. Where have all the open discussion tv shows gone? Where are the chat shows we used to have openly discussing our sudden rise of one or another illness come from??? Wake up people. You'll never be free until you ask the TV chat shows that really have our health covered?? Yes Sure. When you're 6 get under, pushing up the daisy's.

1 0 Reply • Share ›

Zoe
11 days ago

The new malaria vax is 'only 30% effective and requires 4 doses and protection wanes after several months' so what exactly does it do? It sounds neither safe nor effective and doesn't meet their own success criteria

Lets hope it is not yet another 'death shot' in disguise!!
We have been told that this is the decade of vaccination and GAVI, (Mr Gates et al) will be at the heart of this push (and will make millions of pounds) so why are Governments so quick to sign up for these when history should be telling them to steer clear?

1 0 Reply • Share ›

Tom Zee → Zoe
5 days ago

What exactly does it do??? 🤔 it puts vast amounts of money into the elites, already overflowing bank accounts, that only exists in very high quality algorithms. That started with imagination and invisible air deposits.
Oh and don't forget that anything of value like jewelry, gold and silver, property and land. All striped out leaving us, the people, without anything. Whilst the robbing barons acquired all the real goods for fake money. I rest my case.

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